

Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 AF-06 ARA-06 EA-06 COME-00 AGR-05

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FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1911

INFO USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

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STATE PASS AGRICULTURE

FROM AGRICULTURE ATTACHE

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, EAGR

SUBJECT: HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES SUGAR HEARINGS AND REQUIRED
INFORMATION

REF: STATE 141875

1. FOLLOWING ARE ANSWERS TO PARA 2 OF REFTEL:

(A) PRODUCTION COST WHITE OR REFINED SUGAR (NOT AVAILABLE FOR
RAW SUGAR). AS OF JULY 1, 1975: 24.8 CENTS/LB.

(B) RETAIL PRICE FOR REFINED SUGAR: BULK 31.0 CENTS/LB; PACK-
AGED 32.4 CENT/LB.

(C) ITALY DID NOT EXPORT SUGAR IN 1974; UNIT VALUE OF SUGAR
USED IN EXPORTED SWEET FOOD PRODUCTS CALCULATED AT ABOUT 21.6
CENTS/LB.

(D) PROJECTED ANNUAL RAW SUGAR PRODUCTION IS EC-AUTHORIZED
QUOTA OF 1,230,000 METRIC TONS, WHICH UNLIKELY TO BE CHANGED
(ABOVE THIS AMOUNT, GUARANTEE PRICE DROPS 40 PERCENT, THUS
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PROVIDING LITTLE INCENTIVE TO EXCEED QUOTA). PROJECTED ANNUAL

SUGAR EXPORTS: ZERO. EXPORT SWEET FOOD EQUIVALENT WAS A REVISED 14,000 METRIC TONS IN 1974, AND CAN BE EXPECTED TO INCREASE 4-5 PERCENT EACH YEAR; HOWEVER, MOST OF THIS MADE FROM TEMPORARILY IMPORTED SUGAR.

(E) TO MAINTAIN PRODUCTION CAPACITY AT EC-SET QUOTA LEVEL, ESTIMATED 14.8 BILLION LIRE ANNUALLY WILL BE INVESTED.

(F) ASSUMING NO EXTREME PRICE INCREASES, ANNUAL GROWTH RATE OF DOMESTIC CONSUMPTION 2.5 PERCENT.

(G) NOT APPLICABLE, SINCE NO EXPORTS FORESEEN.

(H) GOI INTERVENTION APPLIES ONLY TO PRODUCTION (ADMINISTERING EC QUOTA) AND PRICING, NOT TO DOMESTIC MARKETING OR EXPORTS. IN PRICING SECTOR, ITALIAN CONSUMER PAYS EC-AUTHORIZED 56 LIRE/KILO SURCHARGE ABOVE GUARANTEED PRICE. SUPPLEMENTAL 40 LIRE/KILO SURCHARGE PAID TO SUGAR PRODUCERS IS PAID BY GOI. THROUGH ITS INTERMINISTERIAL PRICE COMMITTEE, GOI HAS FULL POWER TO CONTROL SUGAR PRICES (SEE FAS SUGAR REPORT OF MAY 8, IT5024, PAGE 7).

2. EXCHANGE RATE USED: 630 LIRE EQUALS U.S. \$1. VOLPE

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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